

ALTHOUGH IN WINTER hibernation now, this locomotive engine, as well as others in the background, will soon haul passengers along the Heber Creeper railway from Heber City

down into Provo Canyon. Two new engines were recently acquired by the railroad, and new track is being applied for in order to make the train operational throughout the year.

Recreation Means Big Business to Wasatch

HEBER CITY — Over two-thirds of the 1191 square miles of land in Wasatch County is owned by federal or state government, and recreational facilities, the county's top drawing card, make up a good portion of that land.

Both the Ashley and Wasatch National Forests, along with a major portion of the Uinta National Forest, are a part of the county. In addition, the huge Wasatch Mountain State Park, and the Deer Creek Lake State Park, are also a part of the county.

The area is also close to both the Timpanogos Cave National Monument and Rockport Lake State Park, and during summer months, is often the destination of vacationers.

Citizens of Wasatch are particularly proud of the state park named after the county. In addition to camping, the park offers hiking trails, horseback riding and picnicing during the summer, as well as a fine golf course.

Winter brings snowmobiling to the area, as well as some brave campers. During the dry months of the winter just past, the lack of snow cover hurt that business, and the frost line which dug deeper into the ground also froze pipes at the restrooms in the area.

Overnight camping fees were reduced to attract more winter visitors.

Record Crowds

During 1976, the park recorded 741,483 visitors, well above the previous record of 599,512 tallied in 1975. Since the beginning of the decade, the park, which has more than 21,950 acres of land, has more than doubled its number of yearly visitors.

In 1970, for example, visitors for the year totalled 327,477. That total rose by almost 200,000 between 1974 and 1976. The park is the largest by far of any state park in Utah.

Future plans for the park include the possible construction of a \$18 million tram that would carry skiers from the base of the park to the Alta and Snowbird resorts.

Indirectly connected with the park, as it is operated by park officials, is the valley's second largest recreational attraction, the Heber Creeper. It is the park's responsibility, although it is leased to the Heber Creeper Corp.

New plans for expansion of the railroad, which runs from Heber City to the middle of Provo Canyon, include the addition of more track and the utilization of two new engines recently acquired by the railroad.

All Year Job

Managers of the railroad are Craig and Cindy Drury of Heber City. Mrs. Drury said the railroad has always been an "all year job," and future plans include making the train operational all year. A grant for that purpose has been applied for, in the amount of \$1 million.

On the way down from Heber towards Provo, riders of the Creeper pass through Deer Creek Lake State Park, where fishermen and water skiers delight each summer. Of the parks 2626 acres, 2435 are water surface acres. Camping is also available at the park.

The Homestead resort in Midway, just down the road from the Wasatch State Park, offers overnight motel facilities, restaurants, and games. Banquets are also held at the

Homestead, which is a favorite spot for vacationers who choose not to camp outside in the park.

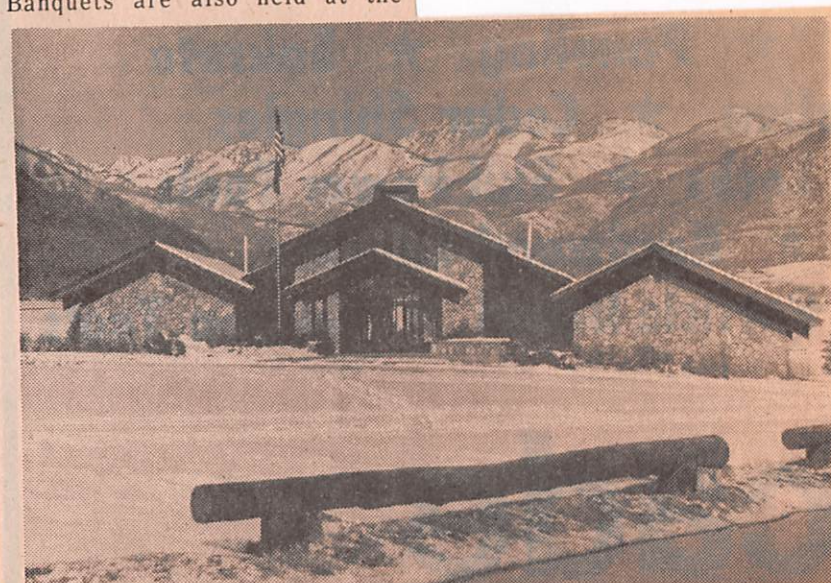
The Homestead also provides another important addition to the county, as it is the fourth largest employer in the area.

Down the mountain in Heber City, a popular and successful tourist attraction is during the summer is the Pioneer Playhouse.

The theatre is housed in the old Wasatch Stake Tabernacle, built in 1887 and completed in 1889 by an unknown architect. The construction was supervised by Abram Hatch of Heber City, and the theatre's interior was remodeled in 1930.

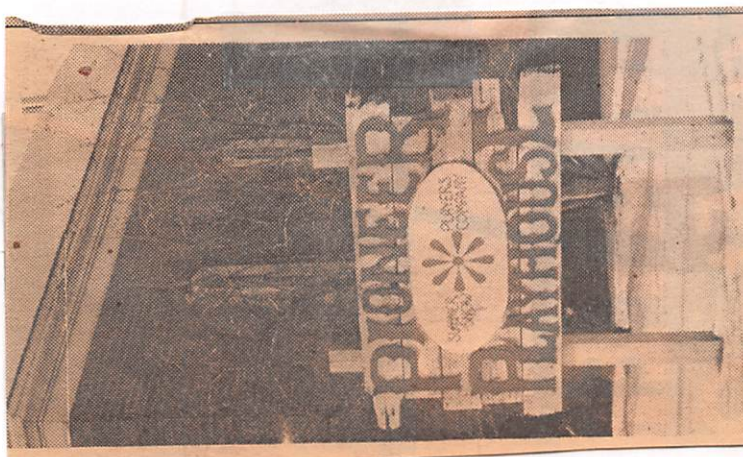
The building is on both the Utah and national registers of historic places.

Just east of Heber City is an attraction which few visitors are aware of but which local residents flock to each winter. It is the Lindsay Hill area.



WASATCH STATE PARK in Midway is the largest state park in Utah, and offers year-round use to campers, hikers, picnickers and outdoorsmen. Behind the clubhouse seen here is an 18-hole golf course, and a

proposed tramway which the county hopes to soon build would take skiers and snow-lovers from a base site near here into the mountains in the background, home of the Alta and Snowbird ski resorts.



At Lindsay Hill, a rope two assists skiers and others wishing to slide back down the mountain in helping them reach the top. It was constructed several years ago with the help of the Wasatch County Commission.

Soaring High

For those who want to fly like a bird, without an engine in other words, the Heber Valley Flying Service offers glider rides the year round, except for Tuesdays when it is closed.

The service offers facilities for both the beginning and experienced pilot, as well as for power plane pilots wishing to add a sailplane rating to their existing licenses.

Airport manager Lary Winterton has been in business for about seven years and has a good business, particularly the summer. Recent acquisition of runway snow removal equipment will now allow for year round service, according to airport employee Brian David.

Regardless of a visitor's taste, residents of Wasatch County feel they have a variety of offerings for tourists, and their economy depends on how that variety is used each year.